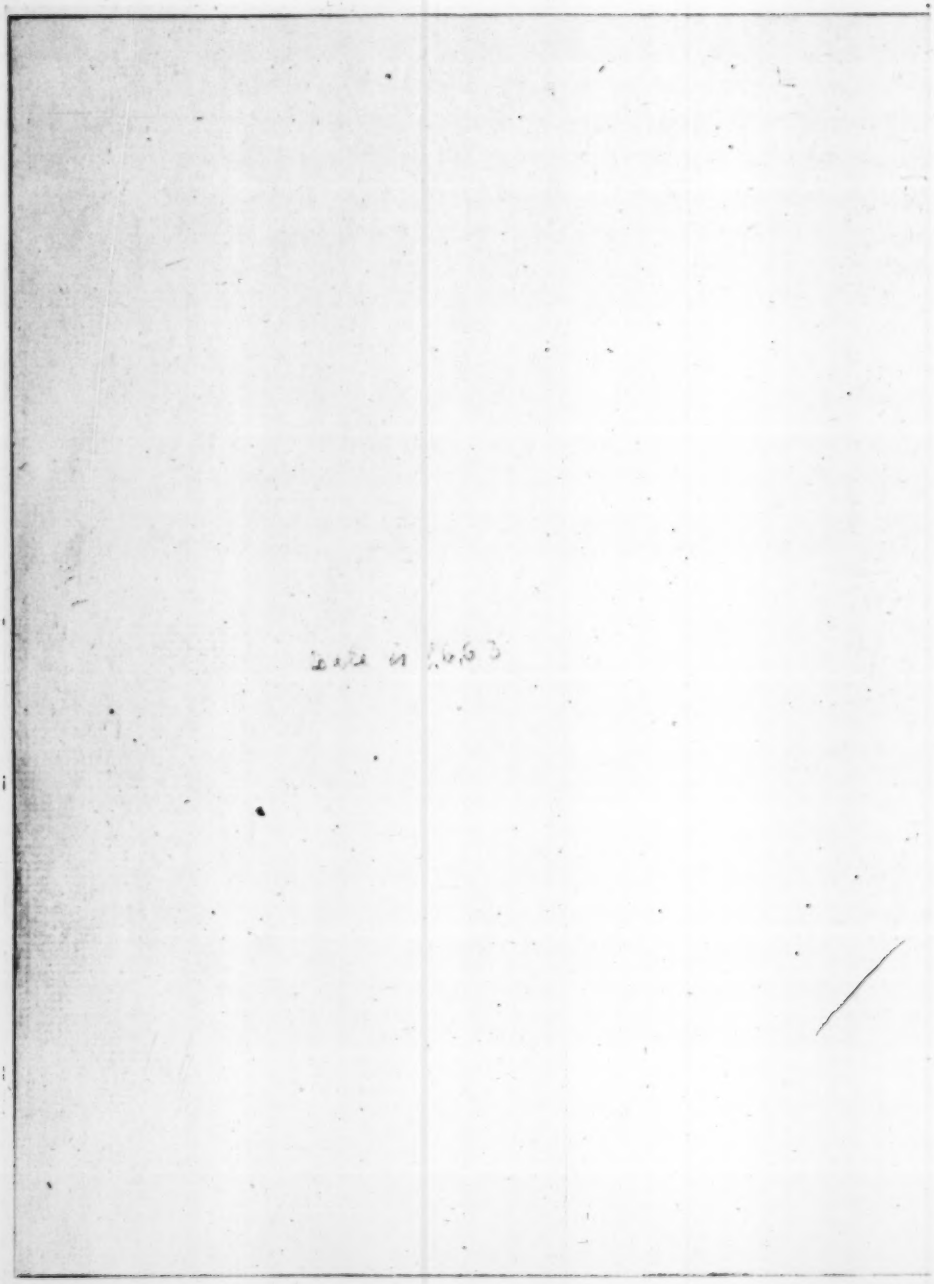
In the original, this book-plate appears on front inside cover.



A DISCOURSE And View of VIRGINIA.

BEfore I enter into the conſideration of the advantages this Kingdom of *England* has by the Plantation in *Virginia*, I think it neceſſary to make a ſhort deſcription of the Scituation of it, as to the *Climate*; and then tell what natural helps it has to make it a glorious and flouriſhing Country: And when this Diſcourſe ſhall produce a conceſſion of the natural advantages it has above all other His Majeſties Plantations, I ſhall lay down the Cauſes, both intrinſick and accidental, why it has not in all this ſuppoſed long tract of time produced thoſe rich and ſtaple Commodities, which I ſhall in this Diſcourſe affirm it is capable of.

And, Firſt, for the *Climate*. It lyeth within the Degrees of 37. and 42. (*Mariland* included) which by all is confeſs'd to be a ſcituation capable of the diverſities of all Northern and Southern commodities, ſome Drugs and Spices excepted, which *Florida*, on whoſe borders we are newly ſeated, may alſo probably produce.

Into the Bay of *Virginia*, formerly called *Cheſapeack* Bay, runs ſix eminent Rivers, none twenty miles diſtant from another; three of which exceed the *Thames*, both in extent and

progreſſion of the Tides; theſe cauſe and continue the admir'd fertility of the Countrey, and by their greatneſs and contiguity temper thoſe heats, which the dryer places of *Africa* are ſubject to, in the ſame degrees of latitude.

Up theſe Rivers Ships of three hundred tuns ſail near two hundred miles, and anchor in the freſh waters; and by this means are not troubled with thoſe Worms which endamage ſhips, both in the Weſtern Iſlands of *America*, and in the *Mediterranean ſea*. And to avoid a larger diſcourſe of it, I will here note it, that our ſhips once paſt the Lands end, are in no danger of Pirats, Rocks or Lee-ſhores, till they come to their Port, and fewer ſhips miſcarry going to *Virginia*, then to any Port at that diſtance in the world.

Now for thoſe things which are naturally in it, they are theſe, Iron, Lead, Pitch, Tar, Maſts, Timber for Ships of the greateſt magnitude, and Wood for Pot-aſhes.

Thoſe other Commodities, which are produced by induſtry, are Flax, Hemp, Silk, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rice, Cotton, all ſorts of Pulſe and Fruits, the laſt of which in that perfection, that if the taſte were the onely judge, we would not think they were of the ſame *ſpecies* with thoſe from which they are derived to us from *England*. The vicious ruinous plant of Tobacco I would not name, but that it brings more money to the Crown, then all the Iſlands in *America* beſides.

Now this is aſcertained and confeſſed, that ſuch ſtaple commodities, as Iron, Silk, Flax, Hemp, and Pot-aſhes, may be eaſily raiſed in *Virginia*, an high imputation will lye upon us, why we have not all this time endeavoured to evidence the truth and certainty of it, to our own and the publick advantage.

To this I will anſwer, that the long time of ſeating of *Virginia* is a general and popular error: For though the firſt ſhips arrived in *Virginia* in 1606. yet by reaſon of many almoſt inſuparable difficulties, the increaſe of the number of Planters was hardly perceptible: For, firſt, that, as all unclear'd Plantations, was unwholſom; then all they eat came from *England*, and provided for thoſe they never ſaw nor cared for,

was

was not likely to be very good. Then the *Indians* quickly grew jealous of them, and forced them to fight for every foot of ground they held, and in the year 1622. in one night murdered all but four or five hundred. So that from that time we muſt begin the account of the Plantation: nor is this all, for many years after this, the danger and ſcarcity of the Inhabitants was ſo famed thorough *England*, that none but ſuch as were forced could be induced to plant or defend the place; and of thoſe that came, there was not one woman to thirty men, and *populus virorum* is of no long duration any where. But ſince the year 1630. the place began to be of more plenty and ſecurity, for the *Indians*, though not ſubdued, were terrified to a ſuſpenſion of arms, the Planters then firſt began to fence their grounds and plant Corn; the few Cattel they had, increaſed to ſuch numbers, that thay were able to help their neighbour Plantations. And now I believe, that there is no Plantation of the *Engliſh* would more abound in Cattel, Hogs, and all ſorts of Fruit, than *Virginia*, if they had but a mean price to quicken their induſtry, and make their providence vigilant.

Another great imputation lyes on the Countrey, that none but thoſe of the meaneſt quality and corrupteſt lives go thither. This to our Maligners we would eaſily grant, if they would conſent to the *omen* of it; for was not *Rome* thus begun and compoſed? and the greateſt honour that was given to *Romulus* and his City was this, that his ſeverity and diſcipline in his time, made them formidable to their neighbours, and his poſterity maſters of the world. But this is not all truth, for men of as good Families as any Subjects in *England* have reſided there, as the *Percys*, the *Barkleys*, the *Weſts*, the *Gages*, the *Throgmortons*, *Wyats*, *Degges*, *Chickeleys*, *Moldſworths*, *Morriſons*, *Kemps*, and hundred others, which I forbear to name, leſt I ſhould miſherald them in the Catalogue. But grant it were thus, is this any imputation to the place, that thoſe that come from hence with thoſe ungoverned manners and affections, change them there for ſober and thrifty paſſions and deſires, which is evident in moſt that are there; and thoſe that will either experimentally or morally weigh the

the natnre and conditions of men, ſhall find, that naturally this change will follow the alteration of our conditions: For who experimentally in *England* are more prodigal and riotous then the younger brothers of it, who have leaſt Fond to maintain and continue either of them? who leſſe careful of their Eſtates then thoſe, whoſe early negligence hath engaged them to the Uſurer? and the natural reaſon is evident, for it is hope and a propoſed end that quickens our induſtry, and bridles our intemperance; but when *Cui bono* ſhall be objected, wretchleſneſſe and a deſire of preſent pleaſures will invade us: But this is not ſo in our Plantations; for we find there that if we will be provident and induſtrious for a year or two, we may provide for our Poſterity for many Ages; the manifeſt knowledge of this makes men induſtrious and vigilant with us, who here having no Vineyards to dreſſe, ſtood idle in the Market-place till the eleventh hour.

But we will confeſſe, that there is with us a great ſcarcity of good men; that is, of able Workmen, at whoſe doors ought this defect to lie? not at ours, who would procure them could they be perſwaded at high prices; but indeed our liberty to do good onely to our ſelves, is the main obſtacle of our progreſs to ſtaple commodities in our Plantations, for onely ſuch ſervants as have been brought up to no Art or Trade, hunger and fear of priſons bring to us, which we muſt entertain or have none: And I think that Lawyer had reaſon, who being chid by the Judge for often bringing ſcandalous cauſes before him; told him, they were the beſt he could get to be brought to him.

Had the *Dutch Virginia*, they would make it the Fortreſſe, Mart and Magazin of all the *Weſt Indies*, for (as I at firſt intimated) the Rivers will ſecurely harbour twenty thouſands Ships at once; the Country produceth all things neceſſary for thoſe Ships and the men that ſayle in them, nothing wanting for the ſupplies of war or peace, but it was ever our miſery not to take our aims the diſtance of an Age.

But half that time to the making us, and enriching this Kingdom by our labours, will not be required; for I can with aſſurance affirme, that if we have from hence reſolute in-

inſtructions and indulgent encouragements, within ſeven years we ſhall not need the Northerne nor Southerne Eaſt Countries, to ſupply us with Silk, Flax, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, Iron, Maſts, Timber, and Pot-aſhes; for all of theſe, but Iron, we want only skilful men to teach us to produce them the cheapeſt and readieſt way; but the making of Iron will require abler purſes then we are yet maſters of.

Yet in another Paragraph I ſhall propoſe that, which if granted to us, will enable us of our ſelves to accompliſh this and other great concernments.

It muſt be confeſſed, that *Barbadoes* ſends a better commodity into *England*, then *Virginia* yet does; but withall it muſt be acknowledged, that one Ship from *Virginia* brings more Money to the Crown, then five Ships of the ſame burthen do from the *Barbadoes*. But had we ability or skill to ſet forward thoſe ſtaple commodities I mentioned, of Silk, Flax, Hemp, Pitch, Pot-aſhes, and Iron, a few yeares would make us able to ſend more Ships laden with theſe, then now the *Barbadoes* do with Sugar.

Amongſt many other weighty Reaſons, why *Virginia* has not all this while made any progreſsion into ſtaple Commodities, this is the chief. That our Governours by reaſon of the corruption of thoſe times they lived in, laid the Foundation of our wealth and induſtry on the vices of men; for about the time of our firſt ſeating of the Country, did this vicious habit of taking *Tobacco* poſſeſſe the Engliſh Nation, and from them has diffuſed it ſelf into moſt parts of the World; this I ſay being brought to us from *Spain* at great prices, made our Governour ſuppoſe great wealth might be raiſed to particulars by this univerſal vice, and indeed for many yeares they were not deceived, till that increaſing in numbers, and many other Plantations following the ſame deſign, at laſt brought it as now it is to that lowneſſe of price, that the Cuſtomes doubles the firſt purchaſe; that is, the Merchant buyes it for one penny the pound, and we pay two pence for the Cuſtom of that which they are not pleaſed to take from us.

This was the firſt and fundamental hinderance that made the Planters neglect all other acceſſions to wealth and happineſs,

pineſs, and fix their hopes only on this vicious weed of *Tobacco*, which at length has brought them to that extremity, that they can neither handſomely ſubſiſt with it, nor without it.

Another hinderance has been, that there was never yet any publick incouragement to aſſiſt the Planters in thoſe more chargeable undertakings, as Iron-Mines and Shipping.

Another impediment, and an important one too has been the diſ-membring of the Colonie, by giving away and erecting divers Principalities out of it, as *Maryland* to my Lord *Baltamore*, and part of *Florida* to my Lord of *Arundell*, theſe Grants will in the next Age be found more diſadvantagious to the Crown then is perceptible in this; and therefore I ſhall not touch it (uncommanded) as to the politick part of it, but as to the Oeconomick. I ſhall affirme that we can never make any Lawes for the erecting Staple Commodities, and ſetting a ſtop to our unlimitted planting of *Tobacco*, whilſt theſe Governments are diſtinct and independent, for on frequent tryals when we begin to make proviſions for theſe, our people fly to *Maryland*, and by this means heighten our publick charges, and weaken our defences againſt our perpetual enemies the *Indians*. Nor is this all, forby reaſon of theſe interpoſing Grants, we have ſuffered the *Dutch* to enrich themſelves on our diſcoveries, who have in our precincts ſetled a Trade of Beaver with the *Indians*, amounting to two hundred thouſand skins a year, and ſupply our enemies with Ammunition and Guns in greater proportion then we have them our ſelves, but God be thanked as yet, they, their Towns and Trade are in the Kings power, when ever he ſhall command them either to quit their Uſurpations, or to acknowledge their Subjection to him in thoſe parts.

Another great impediment has been, the confining the Planters to Trade only with the Engliſh, this no good Subject or Engliſhman will oppoſe, if it be found either beneficial to the Crown or our Mother-Nation; but if it ſhall appear that neither of theſe are advantaged by it, then we cannot but reſent, that forty thouſand people ſhould be impoveriſh'd to enrich little more then forty Merchants, who being

being the only buyers of our *Tobacco*, give us what they pleaſe for it, and after it is here, ſell it how they pleaſe; and indeed have forty thouſand ſervants in us at cheaper rates, then any other men have ſlaves, for they find them Meat, Drink and Clothes, we furniſh our ſelves and their Sea-men with Meat and Drink, and all our ſweat and labour, as they order us, will hardly procure us courſe clothes to keep us from the extremities of heat and cold: yet if theſe preſſures of us did advance the Cuſtoms, or benefit the Nation, we ſhould not repine; but that it does the contrary to both, I ſhall eaſily evidence when commanded.

Another hinderance has been, the want of a publick Stock to enable us to procure able men for the finding all ſorts of Mines, making Iron of thoſe Mines that are found, Ship-Carpenters, men skilful in Hemp, Flax and Silk, for the laſt of which no Country in the world is more naturally provided then *Virginia* is; and as by the feet we gueſſe at the proportions of men, ſo we can experimentally ſay, that within ſeaven years, if we are aſſiſted and commanded, we ſhall bring in yearly as much Silk into *England*, as now coſts the Nation two hundred thouſand pounds ſterling at leaſt. Flax, Hemp and Pitch would alwayes be according to the numbers and poſſibility of the labours of the Planters.

On the whole matter, let it be conſidered, whether or no the Engliſh Plantations are not proportioned in a ſhort time to ſupply us withall thoſe Commodities, which now we have at great charge and hazard from *Turky*, *Perſia*, *Germany*, *Poland*, and *Ruſſia*: the Wines, Oyles, and Fruites of *France* and *Spain*, our diſtance will ever hinder us from introducing at the ſame rates we have it now from them.

It has, as I intimated, been highly imputed to us by divers wiſe men, who onely contemplate the natural richneſſe of our Soyle, and by that weigh and meaſure our faults and neglects, that we have not imployed our cares and induſtry, in producing more ſtaple commodities then hitherto we have attempted. This none can more ſeverely reſent then the poor Planter himſelf in frequent conſultations has done, who by many tryals have found their caſe to be like thoſe Architects,

who can design excellent Buildings, but have not skill to square their Timber, or lay their Bricks, and for want of money to procure men for these labours, their models remaine onely in their imaginations or papers: This is our case, who without a publick assistance can neither survive our poverty, nor the remedys of it, without an universal present pressure, as to the Inhabitants of the Colony; for men of manufacture will not be procured, but on great wages, to leave their Countrey, and hazard (as they style it) their lives: this the poor Planter cannot do, whose sweat and labours amount to no more, then to clothe and provide for the ordinary necessities of his indigent Family.

To remedy this, and to procure us able men to set us in a way of staple commodities, at my departure from *Virginia* I was desired by the Assembly to make this Proposal to His Sacred Majesty and his Council, to adde one penny more to the Customs of our Tobacco, and give it to the Countrey; which, if granted, will pay all the publick charges of the Countrey, furnish us with Magazines to resist the *Indians*, build Mills for Iron and Planks, procure us on good Salaries able men for Silk, Cordage, Mines and Flax; and all this will be done at the expence onely of an indulgent Grant: for who payes this but the poor Planter, whose Tobacco must sell for lesse, the more is imposed on it? But a nearer way to a publick unquarrelled contribution they cannot find, having this Axiom firmly fixt in them, That never any Community of people had good done to them, but against their wills.

In order to this we shall here declare what we have been necessitated to do these last two years, when war and other emergencies had involved the Plantation into debts inextricable in an ordinary leavy; which was to lay a Tax of two shillings the Hogshead on every one exported. This though the Merchant made us pay, yet we found it an easier and readier way to defray the publick charges: this (if the propositions of the Customs be not granted) we desire His Majesties Council will advance to three or four shillings the Hogshead, which will pay all publick Officers, and enable us to begin the making Iron, and other necessary works, for the enriching our native Kingdom and our selves.

And

And another Proposal they desired me to make, which is this, That such Ships as were built in the Country, might carry their goods to what Port they pleased. This they hoped would be easily granted, because by this means the excellency of their Timber and Masts (of both which there is now a visible scarcity in *England*) would be known, and when known the Timber of *England* might be spared for many years, and Ships of the greatest magnitude built there cheaper then possibly they can be in *England*; but if the first be granted, we shall leave this to the wisdom, exigence and care of those His Majesty imployes in those affairs.

To conclude and animate the care, providence and indulgence the Nation ought to have of forreign Plantations, let these few considerations be duly poised.

First, it is not yet forty years when there was not one *Englishman* in any Plantation of *America*, save onely four or five hundred left in 1622. after the Massacre in *Virginia*; and now there is in the *West Indies* at least three hundred thousand *English*, and of *English* extraction.

Secondly, if we examine the Customs, we shall find the fourth part of them arise from the Plantations in *America*. This is a wealth our fathers never knew, and in humane probability will increase on us every year.

Thirdly, those commodities we were wont to purchase at great rates and hazards, we now purchase at half the usual prices. Nor is this all, but we buy them with our own Manufactures, which here at home imploy thousands of poor people.

Fourthly, when in the past Ages to disburden the Kingdom of indigent younger Brothers, whom the peculiar policy of this Nation condemned to poverty or War, we were forced to undertake the assistance of Rebels, which God of late has revenged on our own bowels; now there can be no necessity of that sin or misery, for a small summe of money will enable a younger Brother to erect a flourishing Family in a new World; and adde more Strength, Wealth, and Honour, to his Native Country, then thousands did before, that dyed forgotten and unrewarded in an unjust War.

I ſhould now have ended, but that I think it is expected from me, who have lived twenty years in *America*, that I ſhould declare the power, intereſt, and wealth we have by our Plantations in the *Weſt Indies*.

To do this, I ſhall firſt propoſe to the conſideration of the Reader, the few yeares we have had any footing in *America*, the eldeſt Plantation, *Virginia* excepted, not exceeding forty years, and yet ſo many difficulties happily overcome. Our numbers there are now at leaſt two hundred thouſand Engliſh, and if (as in humane probability they will) our numbers double but every twenty yeares, in one Age more how great will our power, ſtrength, and reputation be in this new Weſtern World?

Secondly, let it be conſidered what ſummes of Money was in the laſt Age exhauſted from us for Sugar, Cotten, Drugges, Dyings, and *Tobacco*, and how eaſily now we ſupply our ſelves with theſe, and alſo bring home enough to ballance many other forraign neceſſities.

Thirdly, let us contemplate the reſpect we have from moſt of the Princes and States of *Europe*, by our power and ſtrength in *America*; the *Dutch* I know would not willingly quit their intereſt in the *Indies* for ten Millions of Money; yet all they have there is in the Kings power, when any juſt occaſion ſhall provoke his diſpleaſure.

The *French*, it is true, have not many conſiderable places there: But yet the *Indies*, as they term it, are ſo Friand againſt, that they would not willingly quit their holds in it, nor their pretentions to it.

But the *Spaniards*, whoſe intereſt is greateſt, is moſt jealous of our power there, and we moſt formidable to him by it.

I will not preſume to Counſel, but to give a Memorial I will; that if now we vigorouſly and prudently manage our late acquired poſſeſſions in the Heart and Navel of His Dominions, he will with great caution and reſpect exaſperate our King and Nation: And when our power is increaſed and ſetled, then evidently to one of theſe two conditions we ſhall bring him; either to admit of a Trade with us, or have his Bullion come home in our Ships which of theſe will

will be moſt advantagious I cannot readily tell; but both, or either will be of high concernment to His Majeſty and people.

To do this with moſt eaſe and leſſe charge, I think the beſt expedient is to encourage and admoniſh the leſſer Iſlands (all but the *Barbadoes*) to remove thither, as they are, they are neither of any mutual ſtrength to themſelves, nor contribute any honour or emolument to the Nation, but when once they are incorporated into one body, how ſecure will they be amongſt themſelves, how terrible to their oppoſers? and in caſe a good temprement does produce a peace, how little will the charge be of aſſuring it to be laſting; for the more men, the leſſe need of Souldiers, and by conſequence the diffus'd charge of keeping them leſſe burthenſome then when it is devolved on a few perſons. To conclude, the King of *Spains* wealth is greater in the *Indies*, then the King of *England*; but our Kings ſubjects ſwords are more ſharper then the *Spaniards*, which we had lately evidenced, but that God would not ſuffer the worſt of men, *Cromwell*, to glory in the braveſt of atchivements.

To make a Parallel betwixt *Virginia* and our other Iſland Plantations in *America*, we will take the Miſtreſſe of them all, *Barbadoes*, for the other Iſlands, if now they were to be ſeated, would not be ſuffered uſeleſly to exhauſt ſo many men out of our Nation as now they do; who being thinly planted and defenceleſſe, are expoſed not only to the deſigns, but as I may truly ſpeak it to the divertiſement of their Enemies, who only paſſing by have taken the beſt of them without loſing two dayes of their intended Voyage; this Saint *Chriſtophers* and the *Tartugos* have experimented, and their weak reſiſtance have made the *Spaniard* have falſe apprehenſions of our Courages and Conduct: Theſe then I will not particularly mention, but the *Paragon* ſhall be betwixt *Virginia* and the *Barbadoes*, which does produce all thoſe Commodities in perfection, which the other Iſlands do but attempt to do this, I will impartially mention their induſtrious vertues and our negligent defects; and firſt, I will ſay that the bringing of Sugar and Cotton to be a Commodit-

dity of Engliſh growth, was a work worthy of a publick mark of Honour and Reward; for by it the Nation ſaves yearly a Million of pounds ſterling. Cottens, Indicos, and Ginger were likewiſe noble undertakings; and to admiration perfected, and God forbid, that emulation ſhould make us forbear to ſpeak or leſſen the deſigns and induſtry of the firſt promoters of theſe noble Commodities. But we ſhall ſay, that it is pity thoſe men had not a larger field to exerciſe their vertues in, for like flowers they were quickly at their full growth and perfection, and a *Nil ultra* is fixt on them. But that our deſires to honour them may not tacitly fix an accuſation on us, I muſt here ſay, they had the happineſſe to have no Enemy to encounter, whoſe ſwords were continually in our bowels or apprehenſions; that they lay more in the way of Merchants and men of War, by whom they got perſons skilled in the Engines that made Sugar; that their ſecurity from Enemies made Merchants, and other rich men, willingly venture their Eſtates thither, and therefore the compariſon being as I ſuppoſe to be made between the places, and not the happy Conjuncture of the men that poſſeſſe them, I ſhall boldly and truly affirm, that there can be no compariſon between the places relative to the future advantage of our Nation: For though *Virginia* yet only produceth *Tobacco*, as to the main of her Traffick, yet it has produced Silk, Flax, Hemp, Iron, Rice, Pitch, Tar, which are Commodities more laſting and neceſſary then Sugar or Indico can be: and as our Numbers increaſe, ſo will our Wealth, when our induſtry and aſſiſtance ſhall equal theirs, which is clean contrary with them, who are already forced to expend one fifth part of their Merchandiſe to provide Victuals for themſelves and Servants. But the beſt reſolution of this, will be, that being both of one Nation, we bleſſe God that has made us ſo inſtrumental to the Wealth and Glory of it.

FINIS.

Collated
11/4/34 RD